

**November 2015**

## **Love of colour wins ASG Award**

Shanghavi Rathanthas is only six years old, but is already old enough for sibling rivalry, and mature enough to want to link her passion for art to a career pursued by her grandfather.

Her creative interpretation of a 'butterfly,' which splashes colour on the page earned her the ASG Art Award on 28 November 2015 in an award ceremony held in Melbourne.

It is one of five award categories sponsored by ASG as part of the Young Australian Art and Writers' Awards.

The awards are an initiative of the Children's Charity Network (CCN), an organisation that helps build confidence and self-esteem in children. ASG has been supporting CCN since 2003.

ASG is the only major sponsor of the prep-grade 4 category in the art awards, encouraging creativity from a very young age.

ASG Chief Executive Officer, John Velegrinis said he was impressed by Shanghavi's ability to use her artistic skill, to bring out life and warmth in her drawing.

"I congratulate Shanghavi and all the ASG students who are very deserving of these awards. ASG's core mission is about supporting children's education and by fostering young talent and encouraging creativity, this allows them to express themselves freely through art and literature and perhaps aspire to a career in these disciplines.

"These awards aren't just about the students but how the parents get involved too. We recently launched the 2015 ASG Parents Report Card which looked at parents' perceptions of the state of education in Australia. One of the key findings is that parents' aspirations are the most important driver for their children's educational success. When children know how their parents value their education and the high aspirations they have, this encourages them to want to do better. So a huge congratulations to all the parents who have supported their children in this journey," added Mr Velegrinis.

CCN Executive Director Rob Leonard says the awards showcase incredible talent.

"You only have to read these stories or see the artwork, to understand how much talent we really have in our young people. Their imagination is just incredible and some of their stories still bring a tear to my eye."

Shanghavi's mum also said her daughter was inspired by her brother and grandfather.

"Shanghavi loves to draw everything and anything and she's also got a competitive streak in her because her brother also won third prize in a multicultural award, so she

was very keen to enter herself. My husband's father was also an artist, and Shanghavi used to draw pictures for his books, so it wont surprise me if she follows in his footsteps as well," said Shanthini Rathanthas.

Other ASG award recipients were:

Art Award - painting (Prep – grade 4): Himani, Maroubra, NSW

Literary Award (short story): Monica Rallabhandi, Rossmoyne, WA.

Literary Award (poetry): Benjamin Cullen, Westleigh, NSW

Indigenous Art Award: Shianne Kynuna, QLD.

Ends.

**Media contact:**

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**Editors notes:**

*The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 520,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.3 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au).*